



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5208, An Act Concerning Mammograms, Breast Ultrasounds and Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Breasts Insurance and Real Estate Committee March 1, 2018

Chairmen Kelly, Larson, and Scanlon, Ranking Member Sampson, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I would like to thank you for raising **House Bill 5208, An Act Concerning Mammograms, Breast Ultrasounds and Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Breasts**.

In 2016, I was proud to sponsor legislation that expanded the definition of mammography to include tomosynthesis. This legislation did not require that patients receive tomosynthesis, rather it required that should a patient or medical professional want to use this form of mammography, that it be covered by insurance. Tomosynthesis screenings create a three-dimensional image of the breast, resulting in a more comprehensive and detailed picture. In contrast with traditional methods, medical professionals have consistently indicated this more modern approach decreases false positives and increases early detection. The legislation adopted in 2016 was an important step forward in ensuring that women in Connecticut have access to all the tools necessary to battle breast cancer.

Since passage of this law, it has come to my attention that some insurance providers may not be providing tomosynthesis coverage as required. We need to update the medical coding used in our statutes as applied to mammograms to clarify tomosynthesis coverage is required by law. In particular, I support Section 1(a) and Section 2(a) of House Bill 5208. This is the language within the bill that updates these codes.

Short of a cure, early detection of breast cancer is the best step we can take against this disease. Connecticut has consistently been a leader in providing excellent insurance coverage for breast cancer screening. I urge the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to make this simple fix to ensure that women in Connecticut continue to have affordable access to tomosynthesis screenings.